Satat Shiksha Karyakram

†669. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts of Madhya Pradesh where Satat Shiksha Karyakram has been started;

(b) the time limit for sanctioning the second instalment after the first instalment and the criteria therefor; and

(c) the districts to which second instalment has been released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Continuing Education Programme has been sanctioned in 42 districts in Madhya pradesh.

(b) The release of second instalment of grant is considered on receipt of the request for the same and after the following conditions have been fulfilled:

(i) 75% of the first instalment of the grant has been utilized;

(ii) Establishment of the Continuing Education Centres and submission of the progress report of the projects;

(iii) Audited statement of accounts and utilization certificate in case the request for second instalment is received after more than 12 months.

(c) In Madhya Pradesh the second instalment has so far been released to one district.

Cost of higher education

670. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of higher education, particularly the professional course, is constantly increasing by each passing year and on account of which such education has become out of reach for the meritorious students hailing from economically weaker sections of the society;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government are considering a Central Legislation on framing a policy for regulation of fees and admission in private educational institutes, particularly in respect of those colleges conducting professional courses; and

(d) if so, details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The fee in the Government Institutions is low and affordable and there is a provision of freeship and scholarship for poor and meritorious students apart from the facilities for providing educational loans.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A draft Bill for regulation of admission and fixation of fee in private professional educational institutions has been prepared and is being circulated to all the State Governments, concerned Ministries and other stakeholders to elicit their views.

Expansion of higher education

671. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's policy with regard to the establishment of adequate number of degree colleges, universities and research institutions in the field of higher education;

(b) whether Government have any separate policy for development and expansion of higher education; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Central Government or UGC do not set up any colleges of their own. Colleges are generally set up by the Universities, State Governments, Trusts and registered Societies keeping in view the demand for higher education and the availability of resources. While Universities are established under a Central or State act, the Central Government may on the advice of the UGC declare any